

Thou mantlest o'er the battlement,
By strife or storm decay'd,
And fillest up each envious rent
Time's canker tooth hath made."

It abounds on the walls of the castles in Monmouthshire, as well as on that most beautiful and picturesque of all Gothic monuments, Tintern Abbey, seated as it is in a most sequestered and delightful spot.

"Thy solitude looks lovely in the vale,
The mountain forest flutters o'er thy wall,
The Wye winds round thee, and the snow white sail
Comes glittering downward on the river's fall."

Those who have paid a visit to these monastic ruins, will scarcely ever forget the impression made on the mind as they viewed the venerable pile.

"For here no more soft music floats,
No holy anthem's chanted now,
All hushed, except the ring-doves notes
Low murmuring from the beechen bough."

The blossoms of the Snapdragon are of various colours, some are pure white, others red, and some are variegated. It is a curiously formed flower, the mouth of the corolla is closed by a projecting palate, which opens on being pressed by the thumb and finger at the base, and then it has the appearance of the gaping mouth of an animal, and the stamen which are now displayed somewhat resemble teeth; and it has from hence

received the name of dog's-mouth, lion's-snap, toad's-mouth, and snap-dragon from its curious formed blossom; and calf's-snout from the form of its seed vessel.

We cannot examine this flower without admiration, for we then find how wonderfully it is adapted for the situations in which it grows naturally, by having its parts of fructification so guarded against the bleak winds, that it defies the rain or tempest to enter the blossom until the seed is formed, when the mask falls off to allow free access of air to the vessels.—Bees often enter the blossom between its closely pressed lips, as if conscious of such an opening, although undiscernible to the nicest eye. The plant produces its flowers in an unilateral spike, leaning towards the sun.

There is another indigenous species the lesser Snap-dragon (*A. Orontium*): the blossoms are small in comparison to the one already spoken of. It is found in some parts of the south-east and south of England, and in some of the corn fields at the foot of Bloreng mountain, near Aberga-venny, Monmouthshire: the flowers are pale purple, and the plant is remarkable for the length of the calyx segments.

Plants to be sought after during the month.

Seaside Koniga, (*Koniga maritima*,) sea rocks, Devon, Cornwall; Common Marsh Mallow, (*Althæa officinalis*,) marshes near the sea, on the banks of the Severn; Common grass of Parnassus,